

October 28, 2005

## **STENEHJEM OFFERS TIPS FOR SAFE TRICK-OR-TREATING**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem reminds parents to use caution when allowing children to go “trick or treating” around the neighborhood.

When planning Halloween fun and trick-or-treat routes, Stenehjem encourages parents to check the “Sex Offender Information” link on the Attorney General’s website, at [www.ag.state.nd.us](http://www.ag.state.nd.us). The link includes information about the state’s highest risk sex offenders, a mapping feature which shows the location of the offender’s current address, and a link to the National Sex Offender registry.

“Our children’s safety is not a ‘one night only’ issue, but something we should remember every day of the year,” said Stenehjem. “But, a few simple precautions will make sure the only Halloween scare your children get is from ghost stories.”

Stenehjem offered the following additional safety tips:

- Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible person.
- Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them for evidence of tampering.
- Children’s costumes should be light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists. For greater visibility, add reflective tape to costumes and treat bags. Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- To easily see and be seen, children should carry flashlights. Never use candles, lighters, or other open flames.
- Face paint is a safer choice than a mask, but if a mask is used it should fit securely and have eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.
- Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome. Make sure children know to stay in well-lit and populated places.
- If teenagers are driving, remind them to keep a careful eye out for young children who may not remember to look both ways before running across the street.

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